

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

In the specification, please replace paragraphs 0005, 0007 and 0013, with the following replacement paragraphs (References to paragraph numbers are based on the paragraph numbers of the published application (US 2004/0064821 A1), and not on the paragraph numbers of the specification as originally filed):

**Replacement paragraphs**

[0005] Software that sits between two or more types of software and translates information between them is generally referred to as "middleware." Middleware covers a vast range of software and is typically situated between an application and an operating system, a network operating system, or a database management system. Examples of middleware include object-oriented programming code based on a Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA™); software implemented according to a Distributed Computing Environment (DCE) industry-standard; ~~[[Java]]~~ JAVA™ Remote Method Invocation (JAVA™ ~~[[Java]]~~ RMI) programming code; and an application programming interface (API) based on ~~Enterprise JavaBeans~~ ENTERPRISE JAVABEANS™ (EJB™). COBRA is a registered trademark of Object Management Group, Inc. JAVA™, ENTERPRISE JAVABEANS™ and EJB™, are registered trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc.

[0007] One common method of developing distributed systems is to employ operating system APIs, or sockets API, for facilitating communications among distributed application components. Sockets API is an application programming interface, i.e., set of routines, to create and use sockets implemented by the operating system for client/server networking. A socket is an identifier for a particular service at a particular node on a network. Winsock, short for ~~[[Windows]]~~ WINDOWS™ Sockets, is an API that provides a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) interface under ~~Microsoft Windows™~~ MICROSOFT WINDOWS™. WINDOWS™ and MICROSOFT WINDOWS™ are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.

[0013]        [[Java]] JAVA™ Message Service (JMS) is a standard API implemented by several distributed computing middleware vendors. JMS employs a publish/subscribe API for coordinating the efficient delivery of information. Publish/subscribe features topics, publishers, and subscribers. Conceptually, topics are pipes that carry messages. Publishers and subscribers are sets of instructions that put information into the pipe, i.e., topic, and take it out. Topics exist independently of publishers and subscribers, however all three are needed to make the communications information flow. In a distributed computing system, an application component can publish to a topic and/or subscribe to a topic.